Title | Improvement of rearing conditions of calves on dairy farms – possible measures for birth farms and evaluation of feasibility
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Description | Each year, around 250,000 predominantly male calves are fattened on Swiss farms. Despite different improvement measures on the fattening farms, the rates of morbidity, mortality and antibiotic use remains high.
In the transdisciplinary research project „ImproCalf“, the rearing conditions on the dairy farms will be improved to create an optimized starting point for calves to cope with the challenge of being transported and re-grouped on the veal farm. The aim is to develop a rearing strategy which is based on aspects of recent scientific knowledge and which includes solutions that farmers deem viable.
In this Master thesis, the main focus will be on the dairy farmers (Bio Suisse/Demeter/IP Suisse/ÖLN BTS/RAUS/GMF) and on their problem awareness and knowledge as well as on solution strategies and acceptance of new methods in calf rearing.
Method | Qualitative interviews with dairy farmers
Contact | Bernadette Oehen (bernadette.oehen@fibl.org), Julia Rell
Requirements | Students of agronomy, environmental science, students who are interested in approaches of social sciences
Starting period | Upon agreement